

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A socket assembly for mounting an electric meter in a meter box, comprising

a plurality of power line connector subassemblies for connecting electric power conductors of a power line system to the socket assembly,

a plurality of socket connectors for receiving mating connectors of the electric meter, and

a neutral-ground connector subassembly comprising

a base having a bottom for supporting at least one neutral conductor of said power line system,

a neutral-ground connector comprising a body engageable with the base to mount the body on the base in a position in which a first face of the body faces toward the bottom of the base and a second face of the body opposite the first face faces away from the bottom of the base, a first screw opening through said body extending from the first face of the body to the second face of the body, a hole in the body for receiving a ground conductor of the socket assembly, and a second screw opening intersecting said hole in the body,

a first screw threadable in said first screw opening to a position in which the screw is adapted to contact said at least one neutral conductor on the bottom of the base, and

25           a second screw threadable in said second screw opening  
          to a position in which the second screw is adapted to  
          contact said ground conductor.

          2. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 1  
          wherein said ground conductor hole in the body extends from a  
          first end of the body inward into the body generally parallel to  
          the first and second faces of the body, and wherein said second  
5       screw opening extends from the second face of the body toward the  
          first face of the body and intersects said ground conductor hole.

          3. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 1  
          wherein said base has opposing legs extending up from the bottom  
          of the base, and wherein said body has opposite sides slidably  
          engageable with respective legs of the base.

          4. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 3  
          wherein said opposite sides of the body have tongue and groove  
          sliding connections with respective legs of the base.

          5. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 1  
          wherein said second screw is smaller in diameter than said first  
          screw.

          6. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 1  
          wherein said second screw has a diameter substantially equal to  
          the diameter of said ground conductor hole in the body.

          7. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 1  
          wherein said base is an elongate extruded metal part generally U-  
          shaped in transverse section, said base having opposing legs  
          extending up from the bottom of the base, and the legs of the  
5       base have opposing inner surfaces formed with grooves.

8. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said body is an elongate extruded metal part, and wherein the body has opposite sides formed with tongues slidably receivable in the grooves in the legs of the base.

9. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said power line connector subassemblies, socket connectors and neutral-ground connector subassembly are mounted on a common support adapted to be installed in said meter box.

10. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said base is generally L-shaped and said connector body is generally L-shaped.

11. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 10 wherein said base has a first leg forming the bottom of the base and a second leg extending from the first leg, and wherein the connector body has a first leg spaced from and opposing the first  
5 leg of the base and a second leg spaced from and opposing the second leg of the base, said first and second legs of the base and the first and second legs of the connector body defining a cavity for receiving said neutral conductor.

12. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein said second leg of the base has a sliding connection with the first leg of the connector body.

13. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein said hole for receiving said ground conductor is located in the first leg of the connector body.

14. (Original) A neutral-ground body subassembly for use in a socket assembly for mounting an electric meter, said subassembly comprising

5 a base having a bottom for supporting at least one neutral conductor of a power line system,

a neutral-ground connector comprising a body of electrically conductive material engageable with the base to mount the body on the base in a position in which a first face of the body faces toward the bottom of the base and a second face of the body  
10 opposite the first face faces away from the bottom of the base; a first screw opening through said body extending from the first face of the body to the second face of the body, a hole in the body for receiving a ground conductor of the socket assembly, and a second screw opening intersecting said hole in the body,

15 a first screw threadable in said first screw opening to a position in which the screw is adapted to contact said at least one neutral conductor on the bottom of the base, and

a second screw threadable in said second screw opening to a position in which the second screw is adapted to contact said  
20 ground conductor.

15. (Original) A subassembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said ground conductor hole in the body extends from a first end of the body inward into the body generally parallel to the first and second faces of the body, and wherein said second  
5 screw opening extends from the second face of the body toward the first face of the body and intersects said ground conductor hole.

16. (Original) A subassembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said base has opposing legs extending up from the bottom of the base, and wherein said body has opposite sides slidably engageable with respective legs of the base.

17. (Original) A subassembly as set forth in claim 16 wherein said opposite sides of the body have tongue and groove sliding connections with respective legs of the base.

18. (Original) A subassembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said second screw is smaller in diameter than said first screw.

19. (Original) A subassembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said second screw has a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of said ground conductor hole in the body.

20. (Original) A subassembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said base is an elongate extruded metal part generally U-shaped in transverse section, said base having opposing legs extending from the bottom of the base, said the legs of the base having opposing inner surfaces formed with grooves.

21. (Original) A subassembly as set forth in claim 20 wherein said body is an elongate extruded metal part, and wherein the body has sides formed with tongues slidably receivable in the grooves in the legs of the base.

22. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said base is generally L-shaped and said connector body is generally L-shaped.

23. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein said base has a first leg forming the bottom of the base and a second leg extending from the first leg, and wherein the connector body has a first leg spaced from and opposing the first  
5 leg of the base and a second leg spaced from and opposing the second leg of the base, said first and second legs of the base and the first and second legs of the connector body defining a cavity for receiving said neutral conductor.

24. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 23 wherein said second leg of the base has a sliding connection with the first leg of the connector body.

25. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 23 wherein said hole for receiving said ground conductor is located in the first leg of the connector body.

26. (Original) A neutral-ground connector for use in a socket assembly for mounting an electric meter, said socket assembly including a base having a bottom for supporting at least one neutral conductor of a power line system, said connector  
5 comprising

a body of electrically conductive material configured for engagement with the base to mount the body on the base in a position in which a first face of the body faces toward the bottom of the base and a second face opposite the first face  
10 faces away from the bottom of the base,

a first screw opening through said body extending from the first face of the body to the second face of the body,

a hole in the body for receiving a ground conductor of the socket assembly,

15 a second screw opening intersecting said hole in the body,

a first screw threadable in said first screw opening to a position in which the screw is adapted to contact said at least one neutral conductor on the bottom of the base, and

a second screw threadable in said second screw opening to a position in which the second screw is adapted to contact said ground conductor.

27. (Original) A connector as set forth in claim 26 wherein said hole in the body extends from a first end of the body inward into the body generally parallel to the first and second faces of the body, and wherein said second screw opening  
5 extends from the second face of the body toward the first face of the body and intersects said ground conductor hole.

28. (Original) A connector as set forth in claim 26 wherein said base has opposing legs extending up from the bottom of the base, and wherein said body has opposite sides slidably engageable with respective legs of the base.

29. (Original) A connector as set forth in claim 28 wherein said opposite sides of the body are configured to have tongue and groove sliding connections with respective legs of the base.

30. (Original) A connector as set forth in claim 26 wherein said second screw is smaller in diameter than said first screw.

31. (Original) A connector as set forth in claim 26 wherein said second screw has a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of said ground conductor hole in the body.

32. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 26 wherein said base is generally L-shaped and said connector body is generally L-shaped.

33. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 32 wherein said base has a first leg forming the bottom of the base and a second leg extending from the first leg, and wherein the connector body has a first leg spaced from and opposing the first  
5 leg of the base and a second leg spaced from and opposing the second leg of the base, said first and second legs of the base and the first and second legs of the connector body defining a cavity for receiving said neutral conductor.

34. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 33 wherein said second leg of the base has a sliding connection with the first leg of the connector body.

35. (Original) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 33 wherein said hole for receiving said ground conductor is located in the first leg of the connector body.

36. (New) A socket assembly for mounting an electric meter in a meter box, comprising

a plurality of power line connector subassemblies for connecting electric power conductors of a power line system to the socket  
5 assembly,



a plurality of socket connectors for receiving mating connectors of the electric meter, and

a neutral-ground connector subassembly comprising

10 a base having a bottom for supporting at least one neutral conductor of said power line system,

15 a neutral-ground connector comprising a body engageable with the base to mount the body on the base in a position in which a first substantially planar face of the body faces toward the bottom of the base and a second substantially planar face of the body opposite the first face faces away from the bottom of the base, a first screw opening through said body extending from the first face of the body to the second face of the body, a hole in the body for receiving a ground  
20 conductor of the socket assembly, and a second screw opening intersecting said hole in the body, said hole in the body being disposed between said second face of the body and the bottom of the base when the body is mounted on the base,

25 a first screw threadable in said first screw opening to a position in which the screw is adapted to contact said at least one neutral conductor on the bottom of the base, and

30 a second screw threadable in said second screw opening to a position in which the second screw is adapted to contact said ground conductor.

37. (New) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 36 wherein said body is extruded and of a one-piece construction.

38. (New) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 37 wherein said body is elongate and has a substantially uniform cross-sectional shape along an entire length of the body.

39. (New) A socket assembly for mounting an electric meter in a meter box, comprising

a plurality of power line connector subassemblies for connecting electric power conductors of a power line system to the socket assembly,

a plurality of socket connectors for receiving mating connectors of the electric meter, and

a neutral-ground connector subassembly comprising

a base having a bottom for supporting at least one neutral conductor of said power line system,

a neutral-ground connector comprising an extruded, one-piece body engageable with the base to mount the body on the base in a position in which a first face of the body faces toward the bottom of the base and a second face of the body opposite the first face faces away from the bottom of the base, a first screw opening through said body extending from the first face of the body to the second face of the body, a hole in the body for receiving a ground conductor of the socket assembly, and a second screw opening intersecting said hole in the body,

a first screw threadable in said first screw opening to  
a position in which the screw is adapted to contact  
said at least one neutral conductor on the bottom of  
the base, and

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a second screw threadable in said second screw opening  
to a position in which the second screw is adapted to  
contact said ground conductor.

40. (New) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 39  
wherein said body is elongate and has a substantially uniform  
cross-sectional shape along an entire length of the body.

41. (New) A socket assembly as set forth in claim 40  
wherein said first face and said second face are substantially  
planar and said hole in the body is disposed between said second  
face of the body and the bottom of the base when the body is  
mounted on the base.

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